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PATENT

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/826,696 Confirm

Confirmation No.: 9603

In re Application of:

Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: April 19, 2004 Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson

For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

# REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

#### Sir:

Applicants respectfully request the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 filed September 15, 2004 with the IDS as acknowledgment of receipt and consideration thereof. A courtesy copy of that PTO-1449, IDS and references filed therewith, as well as a copy of applicants' representatives' postcard receipt evidencing receipt of these documents by the PTO, are enclosed.

Serial No. 10/826,696

Should there be any questions regarding this matter, the appropriate Patent and Trademark Office official is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

January 31, 2005

Date

Roger W. Parkhurst

Registration No.25,177

RWP/ame

Attorney Docket No. WATK: 265

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P. 1421 Prince Street, Suite 210 Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805 Telephone: (703) 739-0220 PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT OR CREDIT FEES TO DEP. ACCT. 16-0331 PARKHURST & WENDEL

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For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of an International Search Report bearing a mailing date of August 3, 2004, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the references cited therein.

Serial No. 10/826,696

Cited patent US 4,047,894 corresponds to Japanese Patent Publication No. 50-10281.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

September 15, 2004

Date

Roger W. Parkhurst

Registration No. 25,177

RWP/klb

Attorney Docket No.: WATK:265

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P. 1421 Prince Street, Suite 210 Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805

Telephone: (703) 739-0220

Sheet 1 of 1				<u> </u>								
FORM PTO 1449 (modified)			ATTY DOCKET NO. WATK:265									
PATENT A	RTMENT OF COMME	FICE	APPLICANT Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.									
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY ARPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			April 19, 2004	GROUP 3749								
	- OA		U.S. PATENT DOCUME	NTS			,					
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMEN NUMBER	DATE ON	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE						
	4,047,894	09-13-1977	Dieter Kuhl	23	284	May 17, 1974						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS												
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS TRANSLATION NO YES		LATION YES					
	50-10281	02-01-1975	JAPAN			х .						
	8-247409	09-27-1996	JAPAN				Abstract					
	2002-50371	02-15-2002	JAPAN				Abstract					
	2003-86210	03-20-2003	JAPAN				Abstract					
		·										
		OTHER	DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title,	Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED											
LAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED										

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.